

SVQs in **Healthcare Support** **(Clinical and Non-clinical) levels 2 and 3**

Recognising that you care



Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are work-based qualifications which confirm the levels of competence that have been achieved by workers in their particular field. They are an affirmation of a worker's ability to carry out their job role effectively and to the National Occupational Standards.

New SVQs in Healthcare Support (Clinical and Non-clinical) at levels 2 and 3 have been developed for support staff in the NHS and employees in the private health care sector. The SVQs cover the job roles and functions carried out by all support workers in health care settings and have been designed in conjunction with Skills for Health – the sector skills council for health.

The National Occupational Standards the SVQs are based on have been selected and agreed in consultation with health employers and practitioners from across the wider health care sector.



SVQs in Healthcare Support (Clinical and Non-clinical) levels 2 and 3

The new SVQs replace a suite of qualifications that were formerly used by healthcare support workers. The new qualifications titles are:

SVQ Healthcare Support
(Clinical) level 2

SVQ Healthcare Support
(Non-clinical) level 2

SVQ Healthcare Support
(Clinical) level 3

SVQ Healthcare Support
(Non-clinical) level 3

Benefits

The changes to the SVQs in Healthcare Support have been planned to make the qualifications more accessible to a wider range of staff in the healthcare services. The SVQs are now more achievable because the size of individual Units has been reduced, and they are more inclusive in terms of the wider range of assessment methods that are available.

The benefits for centres wishing to offer the new SVQs include:

- A wider range of Units, which makes it possible to tailor the SVQ much more specifically to the job role and function of the candidate.
- A wider range of assessment methods, including the use of Professional Discussion, which will also form a more integral part of the assessment process. Professional Discussion provides a holistic approach to assessing knowledge and understanding, and is useful in determining not only what and how a candidate is performing, but also their analytical and decision-making abilities.

There are also benefits for candidates:

- They will be able to follow a clearer and more specific path throughout their qualification and through discussion with their assessor.
- They will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the policies, procedures and practices they follow to complete specific tasks in their work practice.

Access

Candidates for the SVQs at levels 2 and 3 would be expected to already have some experience, and to have completed induction training and any mandatory training required for their job role and function. They should have sufficient knowledge of their own specialist area at the level required for the SVQ they are undertaking.

External verification

The standard external verification model will apply to the qualifications. External verification will include both assuring the quality of the centre that is responsible for assessment, and sampling assessment judgements to ensure they are of consistent quality.

Skills for Health works with awarding bodies to ensure that the level of sampling undertaken in external verification is sufficient to guarantee consistently high standards between different centres and between different awarding bodies across the UK.

Availability

Unit specifications, assessment guidance, candidate portfolios and this information sheet will be available to download from the Care Scotland page on SQA's website from 1 August 2011.



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